THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Amnesty International is an International NGO based in London and is one among the many NGOs based out side India which bring out reports on alleged human rights violations, from time to time, all over the world, including India. The methods used by such organizations to gather information have often been questioned, particularly as they are not free from bias. It is not the policy of the Government to react to such reports by International NGOs on internal matters of India.

However, Government of India is committed to take all necessary measures to protect the human rights of all its citizens. The Indian Constitution contains extensive safeguards for the protection of human rights. In addition, the National Human Rights Commission has also been set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to provide an effective mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The specific issues referred to in part (a) cover a broad range of subjects ranging from Law & Order, which is a State subject, to matters of basic policy. Such issues are appropriately addressed by the relevant authorities.

Increase in monthly allowances to Gallantry Awardees

†*79.SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last three years, requests have been received by Government from various organizations with regard to increasing monthly allowances to gallantry award winners and sanctioning class-wise pension and dearness allowance to Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra award winners in accordance with pension and dearness allowance being given to freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken/to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Requests from 'War Decorated India' an organization of gallantry award winners, and some other individuals/Organizations were received during the last three years for increasing monthly allowances to gallantry award winners. They have also requested for treating them at par with freedom fighters and grant of pension and dearness allowance as admissible to freedom fighters.

Government has issued orders in May 2008 increasing the rates of allowances to various Pre Independence and Post Independence Gallantry award winners. The revised rates are given in the Statement (*See* below).

After issue of the revision of rates in May 2008, 'War Decorated India' and some other individuals have again requested for further revision of the rates of monetary allowances and to bring it at par with those granted to freedom fighters. As the rates of their allowances have already been revised substantially, further revision of allowances is not considered appropriate at this stage.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement

Increase in monthly allowances to Gallantry Awardees

Pre-Independence Gallantry Awards

Sl. No.	Award	Revised rates of allowances (Rs. Per month)
1	Distinguished Service Order/Indian Order of Merit/ Indian Distinguished Service Medal (Flying Officer)	2000/-
2	Distinguished Service Cross/Military Cross/ Distinguished Flying Cross Distinguished Service Medal/Military Medal/Distinguished Flying Medal Indian Distinguished Service Medal (For other Ranks)	1400/-

Post-Independence Gallantry Awards

Sl. No.	Gallantry Awards	Revised rates of allowances (Rs. Per month)
1	Param Vir Chakra	3000/-
2	Ashok Chakra	2800/-
3	Maha Vir Chakra	2400/-
4	Kirti Chakra	2100/-
5	Vir Chakra	1700/-
6	Shaurya Chakra	1500/-
7	Sena Medal/Nou Sena Medal/Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	500/-

Major commodities exported

*80. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the major commodities exported abroad and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years;

(b) the major bottlenecks faced by Indian exporters and how they are got over;

(c) the potential areas of export yet to be exploited by Indian traders;

(d) the grievance redressal mechanism available to Indian exporters;

(e) whether it has been effective; and

(f) the cases of harassment of exporters at the hands of Government officers of export zones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Information is given in the Statement (*See* below).